

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RIO DE 04065 251405Z  
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 L-03 H-01 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 SP-02 /060 W  
-----052158 251407Z /53

P 251303Z AUG 77  
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5245  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 4065

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, AR, BR, UR, US  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN BRAZIL

1. BELELA HERRERA, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN SANTIAGO, CURRENTLY IN RIO DE JANEIRO FILLING IN FOR VACATIONING UNHCR REP PRIM, CAME TO CONGEN AUGUST 23 TO REPORT SEVERAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN BRAZIL. SHE REPORTED THAT ONE REFUGEE WHO WAS UNDER UNHCR MANDATE AND BEEN KIDNAPPED BY RIO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL POLICE (DPPS) WHICH HAD RELEASED HIM AFTER TORTURE. REFUGEE LEFT LAST WEEK FOR SWEDEN AFTER UNHCR TURNED DOWN REQUEST FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE. (MS. HERRERA ATTRIBUTED THIS INTERVENTION TO A DESIRE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PREVENT HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL MARKS LEFT FROM TORTURE HAD HEALED.) MS. HERRERA SAID SHE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT ARGENTINE POLICE OFFICIALS WERE NOW OPERATING IN BRAZIL AND SHE EXPRESSED HER CONCERN THAT REFOULEMENT MAY WELL TAKE PLACE DURING COMING WEEKS AS RESULT OF ARGENTINE POLICE CHECKS HERE.

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2. MS. HERRERA ALSO REPORTED THAT UNHCR HAD JUST ACCEPTED TWO URUGUAYAN REFUGEES, BOTH OFFICIALS OF TEXTILE WORKERS UNION WHO HAD BEEN TORTURED IN URUGUAY. THEY HAD CROSSED INTO BRAZIL ILLEGALLY AND WERE ASSISTED BY AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE IN REACHING PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMISSION IN SAO PAULO. THESE WERE FIRST URUGUAYAN POLITICAL REFUGEES TO COME TO UNHCR ATTENTION IN BRAZIL. HOWEVER, TWO ARGENTINE

ARCHITECTS LIVING FOR SOME TIME IN PUNTA DEL ESTE HAD BEEN  
EXPELLED BY GOU INTO BRAZIL AND WERE BEING PROCESSED BY  
UNHCR FOR ONWARD TRAVEL. MS. HERRERA WAS PUZZLED WHY GOU  
EXPELLED TWO INTO BRAZIL RATHER THAN TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

3. SHE INDICATED THAT 52 ARGENTINE REFUGEES HAD ALREADY  
BEEN PLACED BY UNHCR IN THIRD COUNTRIES. CURRENT CASELOAD  
TOTALS ABOUT 200. CONGEN POLOFF STATED THAT DEPARTMENT  
HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO PRIM'S REQUEST FOR USG PARTICIPA-  
TION IN PAROLE PROGRAM (BRASILIA 5566 AND SAO PAULO 2018).

4. CONGEN WILL SEEK FURTHER DETAILS FROM MS. HERRERA  
CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS MADE IN PARAS 1 AND 2.

5. EMBASSY CONCURS.  
DEXTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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